



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EDT (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights - Thursday - July 24, 2003

- ***In the West***, widely scattered showers are bringing only isolated relief from unseasonable heat. Highs in the middle 90s degrees F are expected to continue as far north as the ***Pacific Northwest***, further stressing rainfed agriculture but hastening winter wheat maturation.
- ***On the Plains***, unseasonable heat is returning to ***west-central growing areas***, raising additional concern for reproductive summer crops. Isolated showers are bringing limited relief to the ***southern Plains***.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, mild, sunny weather maintains nearly ideal growing conditions in ***the Midwest*** for corn and soybeans advancing through reproduction, although hotter weather is beginning to build in ***the west***. Shower activity has left the ***Ohio Valley***, helping to alleviate flooding and excessive field moisture that has been plaguing some locations.
- ***In the South***, a slow-moving cold front continues to generate locally heavy showers and flash flooding along the ***southeast Coast***. Tropical showers continue in ***southern Florida***. Warm, sunny weather is promoting summer crop development from ***the Delta to the Appalachians***.

Outlook: Showers and thunderstorms will accompany a cold front moving slowly across the ***Atlantic Coast States***, while scattered showers linger along the ***Gulf Coast***. In the ***central U.S.***, dry, hot weather will return to the ***Great Plains***, although an approaching cold front will bring thunderstorms to the ***northern Plains and upper Midwest*** by week's end. Out west, monsoon showers will persist in the ***Southwest***, while a weak disturbance brings cooler temperatures and the threat of rain to ***northern portions of Rockies and Great Basin***. The 6-10 day outlook for July 29-August 2 features above-normal temperatures ***from the High Plains west to the Cascades and Sierra Nevadas***, while subnormal readings are expected ***across the eastern half of the Nation***. Surplus precipitation is forecast ***in the southern Great Plains, Delta, Southeast, and along the East Coast***. Drier-than-usual weather is anticipated ***for the northern two-thirds of the Rockies, northern half of the Plains, upper Midwest, and Great Lakes region***.

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